

Department of the Navy, DoD

§ 728.33

(2) The provisions of this subpart D are not intended to authorize medical and dental care precluded for dependents of members of Reserve components who receive involuntary orders to active duty under 10 U.S.C. 270b.

(f) *Unauthorized care.* In addition to the devices listed in § 728.31(d)(16) as unauthorized, dependents are not authorized care for elective correction of minor dermatological blemishes and marks or minor anatomical anomalies.

§ 728.32 Application for care.

Possession of an ID card alone (DD 2 (Retired), PHS-1866-3 (Retired), or DD 1173 (Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card)) does not constitute sufficient proof of eligibility. Accordingly, a DEERS check will be instituted per § 728.4 (cc) before medical and dental care may be rendered except in emergencies. When required inpatient or outpatient care is beyond the capabilities of the naval MTF, the provisions of § 728.34 apply. When required inpatient care cannot be rendered and a decision is made to disengage a CHAMPUS-eligible beneficiary, the provisions of § 728.33 apply.

§ 728.33 Nonavailability statement (DD 1251).

(a) *General.* Per DODINST 6015.19 of 26 Nov. 1984, the following guidelines are effective as of 1 Jan. 1985. All previously issued Nonavailability Statement guidelines and reporting requirements are superseded.

(b) *Applicability.* The following provisions are applicable to nonemergency inpatient care only. A DD 1251 is not required:

(1) For emergency care (see paragraph (d)(1)) of this section.

(2) When the beneficiary has other insurance (including Medicare) that provides primary coverage for a covered service.

(3) For medical services that CHAMPUS clearly does not cover.

(c) *Reasons for issuance.* DD 1251's may be issued for only the following reasons:

(1) Proper facilities are not available.

(2) Professional capability is not available.

(3) It would be medically inappropriate (as defined in § 728.2(u)) to re-

quire the beneficiary to use the USMTF and the attending physician has specific prior approval from the facility's commanding officer or higher authority to make such determination.

(i) Issuance for this reason should be restricted to those instances when denial of the DD 1251 could result in a significant risk to the health of any patient requiring any clinical specialty.

(ii) Issuing authorities have discretionary authority to evaluate each situation and issue a DD 1251 under the "medically inappropriate" reason if:

(A) In consideration of individual medical needs, personal constraints on an individual's ability to get to the USMTF results in an unreasonable limitation on that individual's ability to get required medical care, and

(B) The issuing authority determines that obtaining care from a civilian source selected by the individual would result in significantly less limitations on that individual's ability to get required medical care than would result if the individual was required to obtain care from a USMTF.

(C) A beneficiary is in a travel status. The commanding officer of the first facility contacted, in either the beneficiary's home catchment area or the catchment area where hospital care was obtained, has this discretionary authority. Travel in this instance means the beneficiary is temporarily on a trip away from his or her permanent residence. The reason the patient is traveling, the distance involved in the travel, and the time away from the permanent residence is not critical to the principle inherent in the policy. The issuing officer to whom the request for a Nonavailability Statement is made should reasonably determine that the trip was not made, and the civilian care is not (was not) obtained, with the primary intent of avoiding use of a USMTF or USTF serving the beneficiary's home area.

(d) *Guidelines for issuing*—(1) *Emergency care.* Emergency care claims do not require an NAS; however, the nature of the service or care must be certified as an emergency by the attending physician, either on the claim form or in a separate signed and dated statement. Otherwise, a DD 1251 is required by CHAMPUS-eligible beneficiaries